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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8 | RONALD KWAME GAINES,

9 || *Petitioner,*

2:10-cv-01367-RLH-RJJ

10 |

## ORDER

12 || DWIGHT NEVEN, *et al.*

### *Respondents.*

15        This habeas matter under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 comes before the Court on petitioner's  
16 motion (#24) for partial dismissal of unexhausted claims, second application (#25) to proceed  
17 *in forma pauperis*, and third motion (#26) for appointment of counsel, as well as for review  
18 under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

The motion seeking dismissal of 25 unexhausted grounds will be granted.

20 The third motion for appointment of counsel, which simply is another form motion like  
21 the first of the three motions, will be denied for the reasons previously assigned by the Court  
22 in denying petitioner's first two motions. #11, at 1-2; #20, at 7. The Court has fully considered  
23 the matter of appointment of counsel, and it has ruled on the issue now three times. The  
24 Court will not appoint counsel herein.

25        The second pauper application appears to have been submitted in connection with the  
26        third motion for appointment of counsel. The Court is not appointing counsel herein, so the  
27        application is in that regard moot. The second application – like the first application –  
28        otherwise is moot at this juncture given that petitioner paid the filing fee previously. See #6.

1       Following review under Rule 4, the Court will direct a response to the remaining claims  
2 in the petition. **Respondents should note the following in responding.**

3       *First*, a response is being directed only as to Grounds 11, 16 through 18, and 24. All  
4 other grounds have been dismissed for lack of exhaustion.

5       *Second*, the pages in each ground in the present petition are presented out of order.  
6 As backdrop, in the Court's required petition form, the first page of each ground begins with  
7 a page that starts with "State concisely every ground . . ." Each ground ends with a page  
8 containing the exhaustion inquiries. Petitioner essentially has transposed this order. He  
9 begins each ground with the last exhaustion-inquiry page and he ends each ground with what  
10 is the first page for a ground in the petition form. Between these pages, he has inserted  
11 pages that appear on initial review to have been copied from state filings.

12       At this juncture in the case, the Court is not inclined to direct the filing of an amended  
13 petition correcting this particular deficiency. Once oriented to petitioner's awkward page  
14 order, it is as efficient and expedient at this point simply to move on to a resolution of outcome  
15 determinative issues.

16       *Third*, in screening review, the Court has disregarded allegations seeking to incorporate  
17 other documents from outside the petition. On this issue as well, the Court is not inclined to  
18 direct the filing of an amended petition removing these references, which appear in the main  
19 to not add substance to otherwise factually specific allegations in the grounds. Again, it is as  
20 efficient and expedient at this point simply to move on to a resolution of outcome  
21 determinative issues without tarrying over pleading technicalities that would lead only to  
22 further pleadings and further screening.

23       IT THEREFORE IS ORDERED that petitioner's motion (#24) for partial dismissal is  
24 GRANTED and that Grounds 1 through 10, 12 through 15, 19 through 23, and 25 through 30  
25 are DISMISSED without prejudice for lack of exhaustion.

26       IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that petitioner's third motion (#26) for appointment of  
27 counsel is DENIED and that petitioner's second application (#25) to proceed *in forma*  
28 *pauperis* is DENIED without prejudice as moot.

1       IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that respondents shall have **sixty (60) days** from entry  
2 of this order within which to respond, including potentially by motion to dismiss, to Grounds  
3 11, 16 through 18 and 24 **only** in the petition (#3). **Any response filed shall comply with**  
4 **the remaining provisions below, which are tailored to this particular case based upon**  
5 **the Court's screening of the matter and which are entered pursuant to Habeas Rule 4.**

6       IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that any procedural defenses raised by respondents in this  
7 case shall be raised together in a single consolidated motion to dismiss. In other words, the  
8 Court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised herein either in *seriatum*  
9 fashion in multiple successive motions to dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural  
10 defenses omitted from such motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver.  
11 Respondents shall not file a response in this case that consolidates their procedural  
12 defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2)  
13 as to any unexhausted claims clearly lacking merit. If respondents do seek dismissal of  
14 unexhausted claims under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they shall do so within the single motion to  
15 dismiss **not** in the answer; and (b) they shall specifically direct their argument to the standard  
16 for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623-24 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
17 2005). In short, no procedural defenses, including exhaustion, shall be included with the  
18 merits in an answer. All procedural defenses, including exhaustion, instead must be raised  
19 by motion to dismiss.

20       IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that, in any answer filed on the merits, respondents shall  
21 specifically cite to and address the applicable state court written decision and state court  
22 record materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim.

23       IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that, at the same time as their initial response, and without  
24 regard to whether the initial response is a motion to dismiss or instead an answer,  
25 respondents shall file a single set of state record exhibits relevant to the remaining grounds  
26 in the petition, in **chronological** order and indexed as discussed, *infra*, which shall include  
27 but not necessarily be limited to copies of all of the following:

28                   (a)     the minutes in the justice court and district court proceedings;

1 (b) all charging instruments, including amendments thereto,

2 (c) any additional notices of intention to seek habitual criminal adjudication

3 filed or given by the State;

4 (d) if previously prepared, the trial transcript, excepting the voir dire except

5 as to any portions of the voir dire transcript containing material argument

6 or discussion related to issues raised in the petition, but including the

7 closing arguments;

8 (e) the jury instructions requested and given, and any previously transcribed

9 on-record discussion of the jury charges, if not included in (d) above;

10 (f) any pre-judgment submissions by the parties in the state district court

11 regarding habitual criminal adjudication and/or sentencing;

12 (g) if previously prepared, the transcript of the habitual criminal adjudication

13 and/or sentencing;

14 (h) the judgment of conviction and any amendments thereto;

15 (i) any orders of the state district court and/or state supreme court

16 pertaining to requested withdrawal of trial counsel and/or representation

17 of trial counsel on direct appeal;

18 (j) the briefing and/or fast-track statements on direct appeal;

19 (k) the order of affirmance on direct appeal;

20 (l) the state post-conviction petition, supplement, and any other papers filed

21 in the state district court presenting claims on post-conviction review;

22 (m) the state district court's decision on post-conviction review;

23 (n) the parties' briefing accepted for filing on the post-conviction appeal;

24 (o) the decision of the Supreme Court of Nevada on post-conviction review;

25 (p) any petitions for rehearing and briefing thereon accepted for filing, all

26 orders resolving same, and the remittitur issued; and

27 (q) any subsequent proceedings pursuing claims related to those herein,

28 such as further challenges to the habitual criminal adjudication.

1 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that all state court record exhibits filed herein shall be filed  
2 with a separate index of exhibits identifying the exhibits by number. The CM/ECF  
3 attachments that are filed further shall be identified by the number or numbers of the exhibits  
4 in the attachment, in the same manner as in No. 3:06-cv-00087-ECR-VPC, ## 25-71. The  
5 purpose of this provision is so that the Court and any reviewing court thereafter will be able  
6 to quickly determine from the face of the electronic docket sheet which exhibits are filed in  
7 which attachments. In short, counsel shall not file exhibits in a manner that requires this  
8 Court or a reviewing court to go "fishing" through multiple unmarked attachments to find  
9 specific exhibits.

10 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that counsel additionally shall send a hard copy of all  
11 exhibits filed to, for this case, the **Las Vegas Clerk's Office**.

12 IT FURTHER IS ORDERED that petitioner shall have **thirty (30) days** from service of  
13 the answer, motion to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or opposition.

14 Any requests for extension of time based upon scheduling conflicts between this case  
15 and other cases in this district generally should be sought in the later-filed case.

16 DATED: May 29, 2012.

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20 ROGER L. HUNT  
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22 United States District Judge  
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